

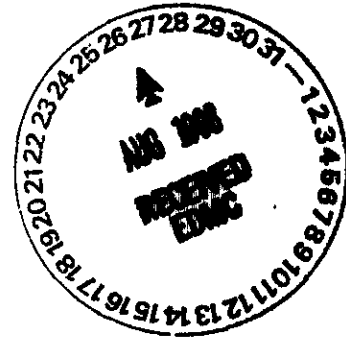


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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10 HANFORD PROJECT OFFICE
712 SWIFT BOULEVARD, SUITE 5
RICHLAND, WASHINGTON 99352

August 25, 1998

Tom Woods
CRCIA Technical Representative
Yakama Indian Nation
1100 Jadwin Avenue
Richland, WA 99352



Re: EPA Membership on the CRCIA Management Team

Dear Mr. Woods:

The EPA was instrumental in the genesis of the Columbia River Comprehensive Impact Assessment (CRCIA), and spent four years actively engaged in the CRCIA project. During that time the work and the products of the CRCIA were consistent with and have been supported by EPA's Hanford Project Office. For those years EPA had the opportunity to influence what culminated in Revision 0 of the CRCIA document. We have and continue to stand behind the general principles of the CRCIA document, and continue to use the insights gained from the CRCIA in the planning process for remedial decisions at Hanford.

Since about February of 1998, due to limited resources and conflicts of schedule (primarily due to EPA assuming lead regulator for the Spent Nuclear Fuel project, for which I am the project manager), EPA has been unable to participate in ongoing CRCIA activities. During this time some of the actions of the remaining CRCIA Management Team participants have diverged from what can be supported by the EPA. Actions have been taken in the name of the CRCIA Management Team to which EPA did not contribute or concur. Yet by EPA's historical affiliation and years of support of the CRCIA Management Team these recent actions in the name of the CRCIA Management Team appear to represent EPA. They do not.

To prevent this from happening in the future, EPA withdraws from the CRCIA Management Team and asks to be removed from the CRCIA Management Team letterhead. Because our requests to assure that EPA be involved with and concur on any actions that appear to represent EPA as a member of the CRCIA Management Team have failed, this appears to be the best solution.

Because the DOE has committed to address the requirements set forth by the original CRCIA Management Team via the Groundwater / Vadose Zone Project, and EPA has representatives on that project, we continue to be involved in this forum to addresses CRCIA requirements. All of EPA's Hanford Project Office staff consider the CRCIA requirements in remedial decision planning. So, while we withdraw from the ongoing CRCIA Management Team due to recent events, we remain committed to the principals of the CRCIA. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (509) 376-9884.

Sincerely,



Laurence E. Gadbois
Environmental Scientist

cc: CRCIA Management Team
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Administrative Record, H-0-3